



March 15, 2006

The Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
Dirksen Building - 239
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Crapo:

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance), I would like to thank you for introducing SB 2110, The Collaboration and Recovery of Endangered Species Act (CRESA).

The Alliance advocates for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in seventeen Western states. The Alliance is focused on one mission - To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies to Western farmers and ranchers.

Family farmers and ranchers believe CRESA is a positive step toward improving a 30-year old law that is seen by many landowners as more "stick" than "carrot". In the past 31 years, more than 1,300 species were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Only 10 have actually been recovered. The ESA must be modified to actually recover threatened and endangered species.

The Family Farm Alliance strongly affirms the goals of the ESA. However, this law could stand some targeted reforms, including common-sense changes to make it work better, minimize confusion, and discourage litigation. CRESA is a much needed and long-overdue legislative effort to begin the process of updating the ESA.

CRESA comes at the right time and is a step in the right direction towards meeting these necessary improvements. We are pleased that Congress is going to take a hard look at how to make the Endangered Species Act work better for all concerned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Keppen".

Dan Keppen
Executive Director